

From: Mike Edwards
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Microsoft is a monopoly. That is the only way I can find to describe a company who, for years, has concentrated on squashing competitors rather than improving their shoddy products.

I have used Microsoft products in various capacities for many years - starting with MS-DOS 2.10 on a home PC to Windows NT 4 / Windows 2000 in a work environment (as a system administrator, no less). All versions of Microsoft Windows I have used, starting with 3.0, have experienced severe reliability problems - and these problems have grown over time. The rest of their software seems to follow this model.

In stark contrast, there have been quite a few companies over the years who have tried to improve upon the deficiencies in Microsoft's products, only to be bought out or forced out of the market by unsavory business practices (bundling, etc.), thereby leaving the market barren of competitors. Netscape is only the most recent example of predatory practices that Microsoft has been using to boost their position for years.

Microsoft is fond of claiming they 'innovate'. I don't think Microsoft has innovated a single thing in their entire existence, instead choosing to buy or steal technology belonging to others. So much for innovation.

Please, don't let this settlement go through. It will just validate Microsoft's position of providing the worst products possible. Given their history of unreliable software with an amazing number of security holes, I would think that this is the last thing you'd want to do.

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Mike Edwards